

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM RELEASE AS SANITIZED

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

ROUTING FORM

Doc. No.:

2003

Date:

Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments thereunder by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action is completed and ready for filing. This cover sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO	FROM	DATE
Exec	C/PP. FYI and further consideration []	19 May
DC / P	Overtaken by events []	
C / P	Subsequently disapproved as a theme []	
C:PP	[]	
		<div style="text-align: right;"> <p>PP FILES</p> <p>SHERWOOD</p> </div>

19 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: SHERWOOD/Treatment of UFCO Strike in Guatemala

1. I had sent yesterday the draft of [] text re subject strike to Mr. Phillips, asking for his and his editorial team's comments and suggestions, without expressing any views of my own.
2. Today, Mr. Phillips came to see me and told me that he had discussed [] draft with the members of his team (without, however, showing them the text, merely telling them the general idea). Their consensus of opinion was, according to Mr. Phillips, that use of the suggested line was inadvisable, primarily for two reasons:
 - a. SHERWOOD has not yet sufficiently established its prestige with its audience to make such a far-fetched story stick (implication: after we would have succeeded with blowing the train and using this for an immediate "spot" broadcast, SHERWOOD's increased prestige may permit a less "conservative" attitude)
 - b. They are afraid that SHERWOOD's backing of the strike may make it appear responsible for the strike in Honduras, too. Which, in view of SHERWOOD's open connection with CALLIGERIS, might create all sorts of entirely undesirable repercussions there.
3. Instead, they suggest that we should address the workers approximately along the following line: "We have no confidence in the communist bosses of your union. If you, honest workers, tell us in your own words that this is a strike for your just demands and not for some political maneuver of the communists, we shall back you up." (or words to that effect)
4. I immediately pointed out to Mr. Phillips that this did not seem to be a realistic approach since everybody knows that the individual worker has no chance of making himself heard against the communist union leaders, and so forth. I asked that he and his team give the matter further thought, in view of its obvious great importance for the entire project and to send us immediately any draft which they have (or may additionally produce).
5. We agreed that he would put a straight news item concerning the calling of the strike, with no comment whatsoever, into

today's broadcast, in order not to fall too far behind with the news. I stressed, however, that in view of the very delicate issues at stake, he must under no circumstances record any comment or editorial on the strike, unless explicitly told so by this office.

[]
C/PP